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# The Years of FAWCO

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*From 1931 to 1991*

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Federation of  
American  
Women's  
Clubs  
Overseas

## FOREWORD

The page principle of FAWCO is that we are not separate clubs, though we live far apart. All member clubs are autonomous, but linked through their membership in the Federation. Just as each member club provides its members with individualized support and local meetings, we could not do so separately. FAWCO provides the necessary link that we could not do otherwise. FAWCO provides the necessary link that we could not do otherwise. FAWCO provides the necessary link that we could not do otherwise.

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Your Federation has, for over fifty years,  
been working to promote peace and to foster friendship.  
An admirable cause.  
And it is all the more admirable  
because it is organized and run by volunteers.  
By people who care about people.

**Jehan Sadat**  
(From the keynote  
speech at the  
1983 FAWCO Conference)

- 1957 Mutual aid project put into operation for victims of Thessaly earthquake.
- 1965 Peace Through Knowledge adopted as FAWCO motto.
- 1967 FAWCO Foundation established and first grant made to victims of Lisbon Earthquake.  
Genève de Genève of FAWCO receives Women of Conscience award from National Council of Women of the U.S.
- 1971 First FAWCO Foundation scholarship awarded.
- 1975 New category of membership established, the associate member club for those with sizeable non-American membership. AIWC Geneva the first to join in that category.
- 1979 First Reps' meeting at a conference.  
Membership now 23.

## *Foreword*

The basic principle of FAWCO, as I see it, is that we work together even though we live far apart. All member clubs are autonomous, but linked through their membership in the Federation. Just as each member club provides the means for us as individuals to get together and do far more than we could ever do separately, FAWCO provides the means for each individual club to join with others and accomplish far more than it could do alone. The evidence is here in the history of FAWCO.

This revised and expanded version of the FAWCO history is based on the 1981 pamphlet edited by Elizabeth Bagny and Pan Hottinger, Madrid, and Shirley van Ooijen, Amsterdam. That pamphlet, in turn, was based on the 1971 publication compiled by Ruth White, London, and edited by Anna Brady, Rome.

*Elaine W. Senigallia, Editor*  
FAWCO Counsellor

March 1991

## *Milestones*

- 1931 Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe formed by seven clubs.
- 1932 First conference of Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe held in Berlin.
- 1935 Name changed to Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas.
- 1937 Acronym FAWCO adopted.
- 1949 First postwar conference at Copenhagen. Six clubs attend out of membership of eight.
- 1955 Special Citizenship Committee appointed to work on question of absentee voting. Membership now 16.
- 1957 Mutual aid project put into operation and donation sent to victims of Thessaly earthquake.
- 1965 Peace Through Knowledge adopted as FAWCO project.
- 1967 FAWCO Foundation established and first grant made to victims of Lisbon floods. Gertrude de Gallaix of FAWCO receives Woman of Conscience award from National Council of Women of the U.S.
- 1971 First FAWCO Foundation scholarship awarded.
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- 1979 First Reps' meeting at a conference. Membership now 23.

## *Milestones (cont.)*

- 1981 Conference delegates vote in favor of incorporating FAWCO.
- 1982 First interim meeting open to all club members.  
First FAWCO tour arranged for all clubs, to Thailand.
- 1983 *Handbook for the American Family Abroad* published.  
Membership now 29.  
First meetings of club presidents at Conference plus four meetings of FAWCO Reps.
- 1984 *Social Security Benefits Overseas* pamphlet published.
- 1985 First Conference sponsored by two clubs in cooperation:  
Düsseldorf and Oslo.  
Associate clubs granted same voting rights as Regular clubs.
- 1986 First interim meeting outside Europe held in Casablanca, Morocco.
- 1987 FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund used to help victims of Mexico earthquake. (Name then changed to FAWCO Relief Fund.)  
Membership now 39.  
FAWCO Resource Center opened at The Hague and index distributed.
- 1989 Tax exemption status granted.  
Membership now 42.  
Relief fund donations made to Lumpa Women's Development Association in Sierra Leone.
- 1990 Affiliate membership on a trial basis established for distant clubs.  
FAWCO promotion video photographed at clubs throughout the world.  
FAWCO on the steering committee for the First World Conference of U.S. Citizens.

## *Origin* *1931 · London*

**The Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe came into being in the spring of 1931, evolving later into the Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, or FAWCO.**

**The growing threat of another war in Europe was one of the many social and political circumstances which contributed to the Federation's emergence.**

**As all ideas, it started with a dream put into reality through practical application, by the right person at the right time. Credit for actual creation of the organization goes to American-born Caroline Curtis Brown, who was President of the American Women's Club in London for many years. It was her conviction that enlightened women, working cooperatively throughout the world, could do much to help achieve permanent international peace.**

**Her firm belief that American women living abroad are especially equipped to promote peace inspired Mrs. Curtis Brown to attempt a federation of existing American women's clubs in Europe. She thought that members of such clubs acquire special experience living in foreign lands among foreign people and foreign customs. Their clubs provide not only "a home away from home," but, she felt, also serve to promote sympathetic awareness of the needs and problems in countries other than their own.**

**An idealist who possessed practical driving energy, Mrs. Curtis Brown had made her own London club outstanding with a membership of some 1,500, a magnificent clubhouse and a thriving community service program. With equal dedication, she worked to bring the federation into being.**

Early in 1931, supported by her colleagues and encouraged by other American women's club leaders in Europe, especially the Berlin club president, Mrs. Curtis Brown invited some ten of the existing European clubs to send representatives to London to discuss her Federation concept: an association of American women's clubs to work towards international goodwill and the preservation of world peace, to help one another solve problems common to them all and to aid women whose citizenship rights were being ignored or restricted.

Clubs in Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, Paris, Vienna and Zürich accepted her invitation with enthusiasm. A preliminary Planning Conference met in the London clubhouse in May 1931. Out of this meeting, attended also by a number of distinguished foreign guests and well reported by the press, came the determination to establish some form of organization. Berlin was chosen as the site for a working conference dedicated to bringing it into being.

### *I Conference* 1932 · Berlin

Exactly one year later, in May 1932, representatives from the clubs of Antwerp, Berlin, The Hague, London, Paris, Vienna, and Zürich meeting in Berlin brought the Federation of American Women's Clubs in Europe into being, electing Mrs. Curtis Brown as its first president and establishing two years as the term for all its officers, with Headquarters changing its address with each president.

The Federation's Charter specifically stated as its primary objective: the furtherance of international peace. It also guaranteed the autonomy of each member club with regard to its internal operations. An annual meeting was established with a different club to act as Conference hostess each year.

In this early period, the Federation was mainly concerned with "big" issues: furtherance of international peace (with the growth of totalitarianism in Europe in the background), the Equal Rights Bill in the United States, and citizenship status for U.S. women married to foreigners. The more immediate issues addressed themselves to the education of American children in Europe, and a scholarship program.

### *II Conference* 1933 · Vienna

Vienna hosted the 1933 Conference during which an ugly demonstration by Hitler's military forces and a counter demonstration by the Austrian Landwehr created an atmosphere of tension that emphasized the importance of the Conference's themes: disarmament and the need to educate children to think tolerantly and to develop an international outlook.

The American Literary Club of Belgrade joined the Federation during the Vienna Conference. With a membership of only 14 it established the feasibility of small clubs, as well as such giants as London, 1,400 members, and Paris with 1,300, taking part in promoting the Federation's objectives.

### *III Conference* 1934 · Paris

In 1934 representatives of the 8 member clubs convened in Paris. Ways to maintain peace again dominated their discussions. To obtain world harmony, it was agreed, it is essential that education develop peace-loving

attitudes in children, and so the need for unbiased history books was stressed. Birth control was discussed and emphatically advocated.

Conference headquarters was Paris' lovely rue Boissiere clubhouse. Louise Connett, of Paris, was elected as the Federation's second President.

#### **IV Conference** *1935 · The Hague*

This Conference at the Hotel des Indes marked a definite advance in the Federation's activities. Three new members, Denmark, Hamburg and Oslo had joined the Federation, bringing its membership to eleven.

Adherence to the World Court of Justice was strongly urged as a means for strengthening machinery to obtain peace.

Again arms reduction was advocated and objections voiced against the then common practice of military training for the young.

The problem of the citizenship status of American women married to foreigners was introduced and its often ambiguous character emphasized.

The publication by Scribner in 1935 of James Truslow Adams' history for American children, *Record of America*, was hailed as an achievement since the Federation felt it had played an important part in bringing about "this commendably unbiased version of American history."

1935 also saw the birth of the Federation's publication, *The Bulletin*, a quarterly which immediately met approval for its high literary standards and stimulating contents. To finance it, a temporary head tax was introduced during The Hague Conference as the Federation's dues were not sufficient to cover operating expenses adequately.

As the Conference closed Mrs. Gasque of London offered to donate \$1,000 a year to the Federation's scholarship fund. This was continued for two years only, but made it possible to launch two promising American candidates on their studies in Europe.

Between the 1935 and 1936 Conferences, the Federation's name was changed to The Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas in order to permit clubs beyond the boundaries of Europe to become members.

#### **V Conference** *1936 · Copenhagen*

Hosted by its two-year old member Club, the 1936 Conference at the Phoenix Hotel, Copenhagen, was rated most successful. Credit for this was attributed in large part to the stimulating presence of the Honorable Ruth Bryan Owens, the American Ambassador to Denmark.

The Equal Rights Bill and the problem of education for American children resident in Europe were the principal topics of discussion.

The Federation elected a member of the London Club, Mrs. James B. Mennell, as President for the ensuing two-year term.

1936 was a bad year for the Federation. The international scene had become extremely somber, precipitating the return of many Americans to the United States. As numbers decreased, so did club memberships. Even the Paris Club was forced to close its splendid clubhouse.

#### **VI Conference** *1937 · Zürich*

The Federation's 6th Conference at the Hotel Baur au Lac in Zürich was marked by the adoption of the acronym FAWCO.

In addition to discussing the dilemma of the stateless woman, a condition resulting sometimes from an American's marriage to a foreign citizen, attention was drawn to FAWCO's past achievements. President Connett summarized them: the ongoing scholarship program, the Truslow Adams history book, the excellent quarterly *Bulletin*, plus many intangible benefits, particularly warm, broadening friendships crossing national boundaries.

Documentary evidence of these achievement was presented in meticulously compiled scrapbooks. The work of Mrs. Seavern of London, these beautifully bound records of FAWCO's early history are today one of the Federation's highly valued assets.

#### **VII Conference** *1938 · Hamburg*

This was a critical year and The Hague, Paris and Vienna were unable to send delegates. For those who did attend it was a memorable experience, not all of it happy to recall.

German officialdom offered sumptuous entertainment in support of the Hamburg club's efforts. Included were numerous specially arranged outings, theatre and opera performances, excursions to Berlin and Potsdam. The FAWCO delegates found themselves ill at ease despite such lavish hospitality. Militarism was blatantly displayed. "Heil Hitler" greetings and terrifying rumors were rampant. The general conformity in the name of efficiency was oppressive and dispiriting.

The Conference itself had cheering aspects. The scholarship program was continuing to hold its own through generous donations of individual club members. Child labor regulations, the Equal Rights Bill, and the education of American children abroad were discussed. A suggestion that every FAWCO club hold a yearly Peace Luncheon, perhaps to coincide with November 11th memorial services, was presented.

Mary Volkmann of Zürich, the new president, stimulated the delegates with her acceptance speech which emphasized the social responsibilities of Americans living in foreign lands.

### *VIII Conference* *1939 · London*

Despite mounting international tensions, FAWCO managed to hold its scheduled conference in the London Clubhouse. Ten clubs participated.

A highlight of the Conference was a report about a successful lecture tour throughout the United States by Helen Hiatt, FAWCO's second scholarship candidate. The suggestion that a similar scholarship sometimes be given to a European for study in the United States was not generally supported.

The problem of indigent and helpless Americans stranded abroad was discussed. It was recommended that the American Government provide its Consulates with funds for such emergencies.

Stockholm was scheduled to host the FAWCO Conference in 1940 and Oslo in 1941.

With the declaration of war in September, all plans had to be abandoned.

## *World War II* *& the Post-war decade*

*1939 – 1949*

**FAWCO's President Volkmann left Switzerland for the United States in the summer of 1939, entrusting the Federation's affairs to Vice-President Morgenstjerne of Oslo. Current documentary material was sent to Oslo, including, it appears, the detailed minutes of the 1939 London Conference.**

**At that time no one could have foreseen the Nazi occupation of Norway and, despite efforts since the war, no trace of this FAWCO material has been found. Mrs. Morgenstjerne is said to have suffered greatly during the occupation and died of leukemia on December 26, 1946. The great bulk of FAWCO's archives, fortunately, had been kept in London where happily they escaped destruction. What is known of the 1939 conference was contained in a condensed version of the conference minutes among the Zürich files, together with the *Bulletin* report of the Conference.**

**From 1939 until well after the war's end, FAWCO endured a decade of darkness. The war years passed slowly and fearfully, especially for those forced to remain under Nazi rule. Despite occupation of their countries, the clubs in Copenhagen, The Hague and Oslo managed to maintain a sort of identity. Meetings were held in secret; club monies were taken out of banks and entrusted to individual members. Club records became a hazard and, for the most part, were destroyed.**

**Four years after the war ended, Mary Briner of the Zürich club, urged and assisted by Mrs. Blattner, opened correspondence with all FAWCO clubs surviving the war as well as with newly established American women's clubs interested in international activities.**

## *IX Conference* 1949 · Copenhagen

Copenhagen hosted the first postwar conference at the Codan Hotel in October 1949.

Eight clubs accepted membership in FAWCO but only 6 were able to send delegates: Berlin, Brussels (a newly organized club), Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, and Zürich, with Antwerp and London unable to do so. What this small group lacked in numbers, however, was more than made up for by abundant vitality.

Both old and new problems were faced: how to prevent another world war, how to maintain the precarious peace. Arms limitation was urged, as well as measures to prevent the spread of communism and fascism.

Socialized medicine, recently established in Denmark, and the unfavorable criticism of it from American quarters was discussed, as well as the problem of double taxation for Americans living abroad.

The Conference recommended study groups on international affairs in individual clubs, also the fostering of friendship between FAWCO clubs and other clubs in their host countries.

In 1949, finances were a primary problem. FAWCO's prewar assets, some \$460 including scholarship funds, were frozen in Barclay's Bank in London. The Federation's membership dues were minimal at the time, with little hope for any substantial increase in the immediate future. As a temporary measure, the voluntary dollar fund was reintroduced — donations of dollars by individual members of FAWCO clubs, a system used in 1936 to implement the scholarship fund.

For the sake of economy, no formal publication for interclub communication was undertaken. Instead, a Round Robin exchange of newsletters between all the FAWCO clubs was instituted until finances would permit something better.

FAWCO conferences were re-scheduled to meet biennially instead of yearly, shortage of funds being the determining reason.

Mary Briner of Zürich was elected President for the two ensuing years. The next conference was scheduled for Stockholm in 1951.

In 1950 Mrs. Briner was urged by the President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the U.S. to invite clubs of other nationalities to join FAWCO and make the Federation truly international, but the idea was rejected.

## *X Conference* 1951 · Stockholm

The Conference took place at the Grand Hotel with the Federation's membership increased to nine as an Athens club had joined FAWCO. The Federation's financial situation was given top priority. Barclay's Bank still refused to release its pre-war funds. Again the voluntary dollar fund was suggested but rejected. Instead, FAWCO dues were raised from \$3 to \$5 per club per year. (Before the war they had been \$10).

Delegate fees were introduced, fixed at \$2, the money to go toward the Conference expenses of the host club.

Club problems in general were also discussed at length: money-raising projects, libraries, club rooms, social programs, children's education and scholarship. Hope was expressed that FAWCO itself might soon be in a financial position to re-institute its scholarship program.

As a way of maintaining close contact with club women in the United States, it was recommended that individual clubs take out membership in both the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the National Council of Women of the United States. Since a publication was still not possible, *The Federation News Exchange* was introduced. It was an improvement on the Round Robin letters in that the material of individual clubs was assembled at a central point and then redistributed.

Inez Hoyer of Oslo was elected President, with Brussels chosen to host the 1953 Conference.

## *XI Conference* 1953 · Brussels

Despite FAWCO's financial insecurity, its membership had increased to 15 when the Conference convened in Brussels at the Hotel Gallia & Britannique.

This was a particularly forceful Conference; great optimism prevailed at the meetings despite the as yet unsolved financial problems. FAWCO's finances were given a slight boost by raising membership dues to \$10 per club.

The Brussels Club gave an interesting report about its own special fund-raising project. *Hints for Living in Brussels*, a Club-edited booklet, had not only won much praise but also provided a steady source of income for the Club.

At this time members voted to re-establish FAWCO's *Bulletin* on a modest scale. Two issues were to be printed each year. Member clubs were urged to assist in its financing by obtaining advertising for it.

It was agreed that FAWCO should work co-operatively with other interested bodies to achieve absentee voting privileges for U.S. citizens residing abroad. As the status of American women married to foreign nationals was still ambiguous in many countries, further study of their problems was urged.

The fact that many FAWCO clubs raised substantial sums each year for scholarship purposes was reported at the Brussels Conference — and warmly applauded. Marge Ganseman of Brussels was elected the new President and Zürich chosen as the site of the 1955 Conference.

### *XII Conference* 1955 · Zürich

Once again delegates met at the Hotel Baur au Lac. The President stressed the widespread dedication of FAWCO clubs to welfare projects: the combined philanthropic contributions exceeded \$25,000 yearly.

FAWCO clubs numbered 16, with 4 new non-European clubs: Abqaiq, Beirut, Bombay and Ras Tanura (Saudi Arabia). With growing FAWCO membership, keeping in touch and learning from each other became even more important. Mrs. Ganseman urged that FAWCO members regularly exchange their publications and provide the *Bulletin* with a yearly summary of their activities.

It was reported that Barclay's Bank had finally released the Federation's pre-war funds and that they were deposited in a Zürich bank, earmarked for scholarship aid. This good news was added to when Patricia Moore, Dhahran's representative, announced that her club wished to donate profits from cookbook sales to FAWCO's scholarship fund. The two amounts totalled some \$900 which was to be donated to the Carrie Chapman Catt Memorial Fund to be used at the Fund's discretion. Carmela Renner, the African widow of a doctor, was awarded the scholarship money and used it to great advantage for social work in Sierra Leone.

The question of absentee voting in American elections aroused great interest at the Zürich Conference. A special Citizenship Committee was appointed to work on this project and to keep members informed of its progress.

It was agreed that FAWCO should undertake a fund-raising venture — a FAWCO cookbook. Recipes were to be provided by members of individual clubs so as to include a great variety of national dishes.

Patricia Moore of Dhahran was elected 1955-57 President, and Athens chosen as the site of the next Conference.

### *XIII Conference* 1957 · Athens

At this Conference, held at the Hotel Grand Bretagne and the Y.W.C.A., the two member clubs — the American Women's Organization of Greece and the Hellenic-American Women's Club — jointly served as hostesses. For the first time an observer (from Madrid) attended a conference, establishing a precedent of inviting observers from non-FAWCO clubs.

It was reported that the sales of the FAWCO International Cookbook were very encouraging.

There was an appeal for help in obtaining advertising for the *Bulletin*. Delegates decided to enlarge the format to help attract advertisers, stipulating that the deficit incurred not exceed \$500.

A Mutual Aid project was put into effective operation when the Conference delegates voted \$200 of Federation funds to be used to aid victims of the calamitous Thessaly earthquake. A number of FAWCO clubs also made donations, bring the combined contribution to around \$900.

Absentee voting in U.S. elections was again on the agenda, as well as the matter of preservation and storage of FAWCO's archives. Recommendations included bookbinding of conference minutes and a metal locker for safe storage.

Club programs were discussed, also program planning, club publications, and sponsorship of teenage groups.

To clarify the position of the FAWCO Representative, delegates urged that she should be a member of the club's executive committee, but not an officer of her club, lest she be faced with conflicting duties.

President Moore reported on her extensive travels during her administration, considering personal contact a means of vitalizing the Federation.

The highlight of the social program was an audience with Queen Frederica of Greece.

The Conference elected Gertrude de Gallaix of Paris the new President and chose Paris as the next Conference site.

## *Growth in Stature*

1957 – 1967

**This was the period of looking outward. While avoiding political issues, FAWCO concerned itself with problems of individual, cultural, educational and welfare activities, at the same time affiliating itself with international organizations and women's groups. In addition to continued interest in citizenship rights, dual nationality problems, etc., attention was turned to the changing pattern of family life, the generation gap and intra-club help and cooperation. A Federation organ, *FAWCO Review*, was started, and The FAWCO Foundation (fund-raising sister organization) established. Many ideas, inspired by one club, were picked up by FAWCO as a whole, and then in turn taken up by other clubs. Some of them, such as the adoption of the "Peace through Knowledge" plan, exchange of local bulletins, acceptance of associate members in clubs, etc., became part of almost every FAWCO club.**

**Members of the various FAWCO clubs who faced a transfer to another city saw their way eased by an introduction through a letter to the new club.**

**New, prestigious and large clubs joined the Federation.**

## *XIV Conference*

1959 · Paris

The 14th Conference of the *Federation* took place at the Grand Hotel in Paris in May 1959. Of the 18 member clubs, only 13 were able to send representatives.

Fund-raising was discussed at length, since financing the Federation and the publication of the *FAWCO Review* was difficult. Volume II of FAWCO's International Cookbook was on sale and proving profitable, and a new project proposed by AWC of Denmark was decided on for profit making: a handy-sized reminder book, called "Jot and Blot."

The Citizenship Committee reported its conviction that the only viable solution to the problem of absentee voting was establishing uniform state voting qualifications. Such uniformity could be brought about only within the U.S.A., and the League of Women Voters was working on this program.

The most important discussions at this Conference concerned scholarship awards. The Paris AWG in particular attached great value to scholarships; they are the club's only welfare project and upwards of \$3,000 is awarded each year. It was pointed out by one of the speakers, Dr. Dorothy Leet of the American Education Center of Paris, that one approach to choosing scholarship candidates would be through the Fulbright organization, adding that a member of the local club might profitably serve on the Fulbright Committee of her host country.

David Schönbrun, CBS Paris Chief, was among the Conference's memorable speakers. He envisaged a new role for a united Europe of 160 million people as a third major power and peace-keeper in a troubled world.

Ruth St. John of The Hague was elected President for the next two years, and the AWC of The Hague offered to host the 1961 Conference.

## *Interim Meeting*

Confidence in the Federation's strength led to the introduction of an Interim Meeting, the first yearly get-together since FAWCO's re-activation in 1949. Only the Federation's executive groups were involved in the meeting held in Rome in 1960 which was highly successful; unfinished Paris business was completed and preparations for The Hague Conference made.

## *XV Conference*

1961 · The Hague

Sixteen member clubs all sent their delegates to the May 1961 Conference in The Hague at the Hotel Kurhaus.

Alicia Paolozzi of Rome gave an enlightening talk about the People-to-People Program initiated during the Eisenhower administration and strongly supported by President Kennedy. Its purpose was the promotion of good relations between the United States and other nations on a personal, non-governmental exchange level. Mr. Kennedy was quoted as saying, "American women speak for our country more directly and more personally than any other representatives sent abroad by the U.S.A."

At this Conference it was decided that the time had come for FAWCO to broaden its scope by associating with international activities while continuing to serve the more immediate needs of its members. Cooperation with the People-to-People Program, with the Peace Corps, and in particular, with the National Council of Women of the United States was proposed.

Extending FAWCO's activities had to involve financial outlay. In May 1961 FAWCO's bank balance amounted to nearly \$4,000 but income sources were not assured: the "Jot and Blot" books had not been an outstanding success; the proposed commercial publication of Volume I of the International Cookbook had met with obstacles; per capita dues had not proved acceptable as yet (12 member clubs opposed this plan).

A continuation of voluntary contributions was urged, the means of obtaining funds for them left open.

The Conference voted to publish a brochure explaining the Federation's aims and past achievements, to help make FAWCO known and to increase its prestige.

Four out of the five post-war Presidents of FAWCO were among the delegates who attended The Hague Conference and served as an advisory board. (During the term of the newly elected President, Elizabeth Tiné of Rome, past Presidents were designated as "Counsellors," a title they have retained.)

### ***Interim Meeting***

In 1962 the Interim Meeting of FAWCO Officers was held in Brussels. In addition to preparing plans for the 16th Conference, the Interim Meeting concerned itself with implementation of the 1961 Conference recommendations.

It was decided unanimously to seek voluntary contributions as the principal means of resolving the Federation's need for funds. Fifty cents "per capita" of each club's membership was proposed as the desired goal, with FAWCO's President to be informed yearly of anticipated contributions. It was also voted to continue promoting FAWCO's International Cookbook and the "Jot and Blot" memorandum books.

Furthering the 1961 decision that FAWCO join in the larger work of the world, it was voted that FAWCO be affiliated with the National Council of Women of the United States. Through this affiliation, FAWCO automatically became associated with the International Council of Women and the United Nations' Non-Governmental Organizations.

### ***XVI Conference 1963 · Madrid***

The Federation's 16th Conference took place at the Castellana Hilton Hotel in Madrid, with "FAWCO in the World Community" as its theme. Of the 19 member clubs, 15 sent representatives to Madrid.

For the benefit of newcomers, President Tiné outlined FAWCO's basic aim: peace through harmonious relationships with other people. She said, "Peace is to work for, not to fight for." She emphasized the value of the Federation's association with the National Council of Women, especially endorsing its vigilance as regards human rights and the status of women.

Constitutional changes were adopted in 1963 enlarging FAWCO's membership possibilities.

Recommendations included:

1. encouraging associate memberships for non-Americans in FAWCO member clubs;
2. cooperation in established local community service projects rather than always introducing American methods;
3. appointment of a committee to investigate possible cooperation with international organizations such as UNICEF, the Peace Corps, etc., possibly aided by FAWCO's U.S. Liaison:

4. contributions to local U.S. Consulates to be used on behalf of needy Americans stranded abroad, investigation having shown that no such funds are available.

Alleged injustices inherent in the Nationality Act were discussed. Pursuit of voting privileges for overseas Americans was urged and, once again, it was pointed out that individual state qualifications result in many voters being disenfranchised.

The Conference's two major speakers were women. Both discussed the present status of women:

Matilde Medina, Assistant Director of the Fulbright Committee in Spain, told of revolutionary changes in the status of women in her native Spain. While still primarily homemakers, she pointed out, Spanish women are entering the professions and business in increasing numbers.

Katie Louchheim, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, made a global survey of this century's progress by women towards attaining equal status with men.

Panel discussions were introduced and proved popular. The Conference probed how to strengthen "FAWCO Spirit" within its member clubs resulting in suggestions that a club's FAWCO representative be a member of her club's executive board; that she serve a two-year term aided by a working committee; that more emphasis be placed on club publications exchange; that, in addition to the Club's delegates, more members be encouraged to attend the biennial FAWCO conferences; that club stationery carry the legend "Affiliated with FAWCO" and that FAWCO's officers visit different clubs between conferences. Elizabeth Bagney of Madrid commented that the most effective way to stimulate interest in FAWCO was to host a biennial conference while President Tiné reported that the Rome club's special FAWCO fund-raising functions had developed an increasing interest in the Federation's objectives and achievements.

On the financial front FAWCO dues became more realistic: \$10 annually for smaller clubs: \$20 for the larger ones, but still far below the Federation's needs. Voluntary contributions had been made by only half the member clubs but it was decided to continue requesting them rather than introduce an overall fund-raising project again.

The *Review* Editor, Anna Brady of Rome resigned, suggesting that an editor should live in the same city as the president. She urged the adoption of a newsletter instead of the present format, which she termed very expensive and not self-supporting.

Gertrude Kunstenaar of Zürich, an experienced journalist, was appointed editor and it was decided to continue the *Review* in its current format.

FAWCO's U.S.A. Liaison, Alicia Paolozzi reported on a speech given by Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, at the N.Y. Conference of the National Council of Women, and the Council's recommendation to urge women to take action to check "man's irresponsible use of nature's bounties."

Marcia Hale of Zürich was elected President and London's invitation to hold the 1965 Conference was enthusiastically accepted.

### *Interim Meeting*

Following the precedent set by the two previous administrations, an Interim Meeting was held at the Codan Hotel in Copenhagen in March 1964. In addition to the Federation officers, it was attended by various FAWCO committee chairmen. Plans for the London Conference were finalized and its theme determined: "FAWCO's Inter-Community Climate of Accord."

Finances were discussed again, as well as the possible establishment of a common FAWCO project. Three locally successful, non-money making projects were recommended for consideration: 1) Peace Through Knowledge, conceived and implemented by Madrid A.W.C.; 2) School to School programs presented by Frankfurt, and 3) Educational Rhythmic Program for Handicapped Children, carried out by Zürich. An International Cultural and Services Committee was established to investigate these and other appropriate philanthropic initiatives for FAWCO.

### *XVII Conference 1965 · London*

The 17th Federation Conference convened on April 4th in London at the London Clubhouse and the Carlton Tower Hotel. The President, Marcia

Hale, emphasizing FAWCO's role as a clearing house, advocated the adoption of a common FAWCO enterprise to consolidate the objectives of individual member clubs.

Progress reports were made regarding investigation and action on:

1. Dual-Nationality Citizenship status. Gertrude de Gallaix of Paris had collected much valuable information regarding marriages between Americans and nationals of other countries, in preparation for further study of nationality problems of children of such marriages.

2. Citizenship Rights for overseas Americans by Genevieve Garzero of Rome. She had conducted an inter-club survey which disclosed a great need for simplified and unified means of obtaining voting rights. While no obvious progress had been made, Mrs. Garzero reported that some encouragement might be derived from the experience of Washington, D.C. citizens. Their long quest for voting privileges had been rewarded in 1964, having however required a constitutional amendment. Mrs. Garzero urged all overseas Americans eligible to vote to exercise their right and proposed that FAWCO persist in its efforts to obtain voting rights for all overseas Americans.

3. FAWCO relations with organizations in the United States. Alicia Paolozzi of Rome, FAWCO's U.S. A. Liaison, reported as the FAWCO delegate to the National Council of Women of the United States and also as delegate of the National Council to the United Nations. She felt that an international undertaking could help attain greater prestige for FAWCO, particularly since 1965, the 20th anniversary of the United Nations, had been proclaimed International Cooperation Year. Mrs. Paolozzi also reported that the possibility of forming a FAWCO foundation to receive tax-exempt donations was under study.

4. As a specific FAWCO project, Marge Ganseman, Brussels, recommended the adoption of a philanthropic project, which, while benefitting others, would also unite the clubs.

The Conference consequently adopted "Peace Through Knowledge" as the FAWCO project, with each member club left free to determine its own means for implementing it.

What is FAWCO?, a newly printed brochure to publicize FAWCO's purpose and achievements was presented and a new type of member club

introduced: the Association of American Wives of Europeans (AAWE) of Paris. One of its objectives is the recognition of values of a dual-cultural heritage and multilingualism and it has been most cooperative with the FAWCO investigation of dual-heritage children, initiated by Gertrude de Gallaix in 1964.

Mary Mag of Rome was elected Federation President, and Rome was chosen to host the next Conference.

### *Interim Meeting*

FAWCO's depleted treasury rendered impractical an Interim Meeting in 1966, but the presidential newsletters (replacing the *Review*, found prohibitive in price to publish) served as a direct link between headquarters and the individual members of FAWCO clubs. One called attention to the courageous stand taken by the National Council of Women of the United States on the civil rights issue. Another reported on President Mag's Far East travels; in her contacts with women's groups she was impressed by the spectacular progress made by women in the Orient in recent years, their entrance into professions, their frequent elevation to high political office.

The Federation's inner administrative structure was strengthened by the Administrative Guidelines introduced by the President.

In order to help young people in host countries learn more about America, and for American children abroad to learn more about their host country, the "Peace Through Knowledge" project (founding American libraries in host-country schools and host-country libraries in American schools abroad, etc.) was strongly encouraged during this period.

An important event in Federation history took place in 1967, with the establishment of the FAWCO Foundation. Undaunted by negative results of the investigation to obtain for FAWCO a tax-exempt status as a non-profit organization, President Mag continued her efforts. At the 1967 Conference she could report a successful solution; a sister organization having for its sole purpose, "the raising and distribution of funds for charitable, scientific or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children." Meeting the legal requirements, Foundation funds can be disbursed to the Federation or to any of its member clubs for use in qualified projects.

## *XVIII Conference 1967 · Rome*

The 18th Conference assembled at the Parco dei Principi Hotel in Rome on February 27, 1967. President Mag reported on the FAWCO Foundation (its Board was chosen from among the newly elected Federation officers). She explained that the major task — raising funds — lay ahead and that modest initial contributions amounting to \$200 had already been received. The Foundation made its first grant to aid the victims of the Lisbon floods.

Genevieve Garzero of Rome, FAWCO's Citizenship Status chairman reported that efforts exerted by the League of Americans Residing Abroad (LARA), by the Bi-Partisan Committees on Absentee Voting in London and Paris, and, not least, by FAWCO, were beginning to have noticeable effect. The involved problem of franchise for Americans abroad is now a frequent subject of debate in Washington. If voting rights are not extended by individual states, they would have to be obtained through the Federal Government, a Congressional bill, or a lawsuit ruling by the courts. More progress is to be expected, as the number of those participating actively in their own particular civil-rights campaigns increases. Mrs. Mag urged all Federation clubs, as well as their individual members, to press their congressmen for help in exercising their voting rights as American citizens residing abroad.

It was suggested that regional divisions of FAWCO's member clubs might result in greater inter-club cooperation and overall unity.

A speech by the General Secretary of the National Council of Women in Italy was read, expressing her gratitude to Americans for the help and encouragement received by Italian women in their struggle for improved citizenship status.

A memorable event of this Conference was a special audience with Pope Paul in the Vatican. Pope Paul declared that FAWCO's work in pursuit of international peace and understanding between Americans and host countries was to be greatly praised.

At the close of the Conference, over her protests that a second term was unprecedented and undesirable, Mrs. Mag was re-elected President. Brussels' invitation was accepted for the 1969 Conference.

## *Widening the Scope*

*1967 – 1973*

**With the Federation firmly established and the financial situation somewhat improved through increased voluntary contributions by member clubs, attention was given to the issues of importance in the United States and elsewhere: problems of youth, education, ecology and emergency relief for natural disasters. Individual membership was offered to a few selected individuals.**

**Recognition was given to the importance of a positive relationship with the host countries in all areas.**

### ***Interim Meeting***

No Interim Meeting was held in 1968, due to FAWCO's continued precarious financial situation. The President maintained contacts with members through the presidential newsletters, which have been published regularly since 1963.

During this period the FAWCO Pamphlet Series was introduced. Its first publication, *FAWCO Today*, written by Joyce Ahrens and Mary Mag, in January 1968, was followed by others written by individual club members and edited by FAWCO's editorial staff. Successive pamphlets have been devoted to Peace Through Knowledge, Bilingualism, Fund-raising, Scholarship, the Clubhouse and other subjects.

Most individual States had failed to facilitate voting for overseas Americans (as per 1968 Congressional investigation). To clarify the issue, Mrs. Robert Rennie of London corresponded with officials in every state to determine what voting facilities currently existed for the U.S. citizen abroad.

It was also during the interim period that the National Council of Women of the United States invited each member organization to nominate candidates for recognition of work carried out in the field of Human Rights. In 1967 Gertrude de Gallaix, FAWCO's candidate, was chosen to receive the National Council's "Woman of Conscience Award" for her outstanding achievements in Franco-American relations. A member of both the AWG and AAWE of Paris, Gertrude de Gallaix had dedicated herself for many years to problems pertaining to dual nationality, bilingualism and the education of young Americans resident abroad.

### ***XIX Conference***

***1969 · Brussels***

Opening the 19th Conference at the Hotel Hilton on March 9, 1969 in Brussels, Mrs. Mag said in her presidential address that "we must face the urgent problems that the United States is facing today." She quoted James Thurber: "Not to look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around us in awareness." Clubs should, she felt, examine the amount of money spent on assisting others in comparison to the amount of money spent on amusing themselves.

The Conference keynote address by Antonia Chayes, Dean of Jackson College for Women, Tufts University, dealt with "The Rebellion of Youth" and the main panel discussion was devoted to "Bridging the Generation Gap." Delegates heard the views of both students and the older generation.

Following the report of the FAWCO U.S.A. Liaison Officer, Mrs. Peter van Brunt, on various international conferences, FAWCO voted to join Women United for the United Nations.

A report on the FAWCO Foundation was given by its President, Mrs. William McEwan of London, stressing its two committees — fund raising and awards and its essential connections in the U.S.A. Three Foundation awards had been made to date. A brochure explaining the Foundation, as well as the Federation, was planned for the immediate future.

Club relationships with host countries were discussed, as well as inter-country hospitality.

During a visit to the Royal palace, Queen Fabiola greeted and conducted the FAWCO group on a tour through a section of the palace.

Sonia Mincbere of Paris was elected President and Paris chosen to host FAWCO's Conference in 1971.

### ***Interim Meeting***

The Interim Meeting was held in Paris, March 1970. Present were the executive officers and the co-chairmen of the Conference Planning Committee.

The 1971 Conference theme "The Role of Women in the World of Tomorrow" was chosen. *The FAWCO History*, a condensed version of events past and recent, compiled by Ruth White, FAWCO Archives Chairman and edited by Anna Brady, Rome, was presented.

Overall FAWCO policy was discussed. President Mincbere recommended that all future administrations make every effort to hold an Interim Meeting.

### ***XX Conference***

***1971 · Paris***

The 20th Conference was held in March 1971, co-hosted by AAWE and AWG of Paris. Guest speakers covered timely topics such as Problems in the Universities, Ecology, Drugs, etc.

The Peace Through Knowledge program was terminated as a FAWCO project, having performed its role. The possibility of international clubs being accepted as associate-member clubs of FAWCO was raised. Further study on the advisability of establishing special membership categories for clubs or individuals presently ineligible for membership was recommended.

The first FAWCO Foundation scholarship was awarded at this time.

Elizabeth Sita of AWC Brussels was elected President and Zürich chosen to host the next Conference.

### *Interim Meeting*

In March 1972 an Interim meeting was held in Brussels. The continued interest in allowing international clubs to become associate members of FAWCO was discussed, as was FAWCO policy and the projected changes in dues and contributions.

The Executive Committee of officers and co-chairmen of the Conference Planning Committee decided on "The Family — Future-Shock — The Emergency Pattern" as the Conference theme.

### *XXI Conference 1973 · Zürich*

The Hotel Atlantis of Zürich was the scene of the 21st Conference in March 1973. The Conference theme was developed through panels (educating children abroad, life style in Denmark), speakers (drug production and the role of the U.N., the feminist issue in the State Department and the role of women in today's world), and discussions.

In view of the growing sentiment to extend FAWCO membership to clubs with less than the present constitutional requirements as to the proportion of Americans to non-Americans, and to limited numbers of individuals, it was decided that an appropriate constitutional amendment be prepared for the 1975 FAWCO Conference.

Elizabeth Bagney of AWC Madrid was elected President, and Copenhagen chosen as the next Conference site.

## *Turning Attention to Ourselves*

*1973 – 1981*

**During this period FAWCO's geographical area spread, with several non-European clubs joining. Regional meetings took on an important role in inter-club relationships.**

**Whether working on energy conservation, raising children abroad, or on ways of obtaining employment, the clubs were finding a new sense of unity.**

**The category of FAWCO Associate membership was established, with the acceptance of clubs with sizeable non-American membership.**

**The possibility of allowing member clubs with mixed women-men membership was broached for the first time, and although shelved for later consideration, opened the way for a possible future innovation. In the meantime, cooperation with the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) was becoming a reality, as well as support of other organizations of Americans abroad.**

**The two years following the Zürich Conference were devoted to implementation of some ideas which were becoming clearer every month, namely that the women belonging to the various FAWCO clubs can consider themselves as members of the 51st state. Committees formed in Zürich worked on such issues as the orientation of the family living overseas, education for women and citizenship rights, and, foremost, the ways and means of self-realization as women, in the light of the coming International Women's Year in 1975.**

### ***Interim Meeting***

The Interim Meeting in Madrid, in March 1974, held in the AWC Clubhouse was open to AWC Madrid members. In addition to Conference planning, the Interim Meeting concerned itself with the progress achieved in various areas and with trying to project the FAWCO image to the local club members.

### ***XXII Conference Copenhagen · 1975***

The 1975 Conference opened with President Bagney pointing out the rapid changes which have occurred for women in general and with the American women abroad in particular. She stressed the necessity for concentrating on deepening of awareness of each individual, of herself and the ability to exercise her options as a woman and as an American overseas.

Workshops on "Women Alone" and "Members Under 30" were held, with panel discussions on "Relating to the Host Country" and "Women of the 51st State," in addition to keynote speeches, committee reports and discussions in line with the Conference's theme: "The Aware Woman Overseas."

The FAWCO Foundation awarded three scholarships.

A high point of the social program was an audience with Queen Mother Ingrid of Denmark.

Associate member clubs were invited to join the Federation, after a constitutional change was voted, with the AIWC of Genoa joining immediately as the first associate member club.

Edith Beyer of Copenhagen was chosen the next FAWCO President, and Rome the site of the 23rd Conference.

### ***Interim Meeting***

The two years in between the conferences were devoted to further extension of the idea of widening the possibilities for FAWCO women.

The Interim Meeting was held in Düsseldorf in 1976. At the meeting, the structure for the Rome Conference was discussed, focusing on the two-faceted interest of member-clubs; the status of FAWCO clubs' members as Americans overseas, and the status of women in general.

### ***XXIII Conference Rome · 1977***

The Conference at the Hotel Villa Pamphili was opened by President Beyer, with workshops, panels, speeches and discussions following. Women's legal status, employment and opportunities were some of the highlights.

For the first time, members of the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC) were FAWCO's invited guests at a luncheon. Milton Lehr, President, in his speech urged cooperation between the two organizations. A joint cable was sent to Senator Bartell of Oklahoma urging a one-year delay in the effective date of a new tax legislation for overseas Americans.

A special social event was a visit to Donna Vittoria Leone, wife of the Italian President, in the presidential palace, the Quirinale.

Shirley van Ooijen of Amsterdam was elected President and London chosen as the site of the next Conference.

### ***Interim Meeting***

The 1977-79 years were devoted to internal changes to make FAWCO more effective organizationally, and to a vigorous pursuit of Conference goals. President van Ooijen encouraged and attended two of the three regional meetings held and opened the Interim Meeting to the FAWCO representatives, which provided valuable forums of exchange and contact of the local club members with FAWCO officers and chairmen.

This administration gave top priority to citizenship issues, and the clubs responded very actively. Cooperation with other overseas groups on these issues was energetically pursued. The President attended two annual conventions of the Federation of International American Clubs (FIAC), in Spain and one in Portugal and participated both years on a special FIAC Panel. The March, 1978 Interim Meeting was held at the Sonesta Hotel in Amsterdam. In addition to the preparation of the 1979 FAWCO Conference, the citizenship issues were discussed. The Administration reported success in raising funds for special projects.

## ***XXIV Conference***

*London · 1979*

President van Ooijen opened the Conference at the Kensington Close Hotel with an overflow audience. Indeed, it had been necessary to close registration of observers. In addition to delegates of 22 member clubs (of 23), four women attended as visitors from non-member clubs. The Conference theme, "FAWCO in Action" was in evidence all week. Four Italian clubs presented a panel "Raising Children Abroad" and four professional women conducted a panel on "Estate Planning." The workshops dealt with: Leadership and Club Administration; Reverse Culture Shock; Cross-Cultural Children and College in the USA; and Women and Work.

Mindful of the Equal Opportunities Act, male membership in FAWCO clubs was discussed. Headquarters had requested a consensus from the clubs and reported: several clubs had already accepted men; there had been no wave of male applications; no club was willing to change its name. In short, there was no urgency to undertake a constitutional change for FAWCO at this point. In the meantime, it was clearly seen that cooperation with men's clubs as well as with all American organizations striving for equal opportunities for Americans abroad was most beneficial.

The Conference voted to affiliate with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), headquarters in Washington, D.C., as an Associate member; to change FAWCO's affiliation with the National Council of Women (NCW) from an organizational one to an individual membership by the FAWCO President, and to support passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

The FAWCO Foundation reported sufficient funds to be able to award three scholarships that year.

The 1979 Resolutions included: giving special attention to overseas children, supporting legislation for equitable treatment of Americans overseas, working for energy conservation, encouraging member clubs to support women living and working overseas and striving to improve the American image abroad and the overseas-American image in the States.

Agnes Stephenson Coppin of Brussels was elected President and Paris was chosen as the site of the next Conference.

## ***Interim Meeting***

The interim meeting was held at the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg, where fifteen clubs were represented, giving it the status of a mini-Conference. The question of holding Conferences in resort areas or cities without a FAWCO club was discussed and those attending were asked to report on possibilities for the next interim.

Plans were made for the 1981 Paris Conference marking FAWCO's golden anniversary.

## ***XXV Conference***

*1981 · Paris*

The Paris Conference, at the Hotel Penta, celebrated the 50 years since FAWCO was founded. The theme was "Opportunities and Challenges" and the keynote speaker was television news analyst Christine Ockrent on the subject of career opportunities for women in Europe today. Olivia de Havilland was an honored guest.

President Coppin reported that during the 1979-81 administration, prime importance was given to the resolutions adopted at the London Conference. The Raising Children Abroad Committee, which generated sub-committees in many clubs, provided solid information and statistics for them. FAWCO member clubs enthusiastically raised funds and made substantial contributions to the FAWCO Foundation Scholarship Fund, enabling it to offer four awards totaling \$8,000 in 1980 and five awards totaling \$11,000 in 1981 to children of overseas families for study in the United States.

The Citizenship Committee kept members informed about legislation pending in Congress of concern to Americans abroad. Kathy Webster, Brussels, reported that special attention was given to the question of transmission of citizenship to children born abroad of one American parent.

Increased cooperation with other overseas organizations and with the FAWCO U.S. Liaison was emphasized to further the interests of FAWCO members in the fields of taxation, citizenship and Medicare, and communication was established with other American associations overseas.

President Coppin participated in a panel at the FIAC Convention in 1979 where representatives of six associations of overseas Americans discussed common interests in the fields of legislation and taxation. In addition to FAWCO, the other participants were the Federation of International American Clubs, Association of Americans Resident Overseas, American Citizens Abroad, European and Mediterranean Council of American Chambers of Commerce and the U.S. and Overseas Tax Fairness Committee. The group sent a letter to President Jimmy Carter addressing the issue of equitable treatment for American citizens abroad.

Groundwork was laid for the incorporation of FAWCO, since it was felt that the organization had grown to the point where the legal status of corporation was advisable, thus paving the way to become a non-profit organization for tax purposes. At the conference the delegates voted in favor of incorporation.

Conference workshops dealt with The International Family — including raising children abroad, dual-national marriage and where are your roots? Other workshops were on employing your talents abroad through continuing education, through work, paid or volunteer; and becoming acquainted with your host countrymen. A panel, moderated by Patty DeBono, Brussels, discussed coping with disasters abroad.

A number of tip sheets on energy conservation were circulated to all the clubs. Two new clubs, AWC Dublin and AWL Kuwait were welcomed and three regional meetings were productive for inter-club exchanges.

The resolutions adopted at the Conference were:

1. To focus on the dissemination of information compiled by FAWCO.
2. To promote the well-being of the individual and society.
3. To continue support of legislation aimed at redressing the inequitable treatment of Americans overseas.
4. To continue studies in the field of continuing education and to emphasize a positive image of Americans abroad.

Elaine Senigallia of Rome was elected president and Brussels was chosen as the next Conference site.

## *Expansion and Evolution*

*1981 to 1991*

**The period 1981 to 1991 was one of development and change. The number of clubs increased from 23 to 44. FAWCO was incorporated and tax-exemption was obtained.**

**Associate member clubs were no longer “second-class citizens”; an amendment granted all clubs the same vote and American members of associate clubs were made eligible for elective office in the Federation.**

**New importance was given to the role of FAWCO Representatives who had first been invited to an interim meeting in 1978 and had had a brief meeting, for the first time, at the London Conference of 1979. In 1983, there were four scheduled Reps’ meetings at the Brussels conference and for the first time one meeting (plus a second by request) of club presidents.**

**The FAWCO Foundation increased the number of scholarships awarded from three in 1979 to eleven in 1991. The FAWCO Relief Fund (originally called the Disaster Relief Fund) made a number of donations. The first FAWCO meeting outside Europe was the 1986 interim held in Casablanca, Morocco. The category of trial affiliate membership for distant clubs was added.**

**The Resource Center at The Hague was opened with an indexed file of committee and club reports, newsletters, speeches, surveys, etc. so that this valuable material was available to any club member for the cost of photocopying.**

**Interim meetings were opened to observers and the numbers were so surprising large that interims involved from the previous conference-planning sessions of officers and chairmen to veritable mini-conferences.**

## *Interim Meeting*

The first FAWCO meeting to take place in a resort city without a hostess club was held at the Hotel Commodore in Lugano. Aimee Crane Gloeckner, an individual FAWCO member, set up the meeting with the assistance of Susan Monnier, Basel, and Beverly Weiss, Zürich, and their clubs.

This interim meeting was opened to all who wished to attend, so that, including officers, committee chairmen, Reps, club presidents, counsellors and observers, there was a total of 110 participants — the largest interim meeting ever held so far. In explaining the reasoning behind this change, President Senigallia pointed out that two years is a long time between meetings, especially with a rapid turnover in club membership, and the FAWCO image inevitably becomes dimmer with the passage of time.

A straw vote was taken on the question of admitting clubs with male members and the consensus was in favor, with a final decision to be taken at the Conference. Arrangements for the first FAWCO tour, to Thailand, were described, and two scholarships, totaling \$5,000 were awarded by the FAWCO Foundation.

The Representatives urged that meetings be scheduled for them at the Conference, and on their recommendation Second Vice-President Muriel Bremner of Dublin was named as liaison between them and the Board.

President Senigallia suggested that an amendment be proposed at the Conference allowing Associate clubs the same vote as Regular clubs since they pay the same dues but have only one vote while Regular clubs have two, and permitting American members of Associate clubs to be eligible for elective office in FAWCO.

## *XXVI Conference 1983 · Brussels*

The Hotel Sheraton in Brussels was the setting for the 26th Conference, the theme of which was "Communication." The keynote speaker was Jehan Sadat, widow of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Other speakers were Jean Gerard, U.S. Ambassador to UNESCO and Herman de Croo, Belgian Minister of Communications.

President Senigallia reported that a special effort had been made to get information to the member clubs and through them to the individual members. Four issues of a new publication, the *FAWCO Forum*, designed as a readable small newspaper, as well as four newsletters were sent to

officers, committee chairmen, counsellors, Representatives and for distribution to clubs' executive boards.

Letters of welcome, with information on what a Rep should know and do, were sent to all new Representatives.

Beverly Morisset, Brussels, editor of the *Handbook for the American Family Abroad*, distributed copies to delegates to take back to their home clubs to serve for fund-raising. The Education Committee on Children Abroad issued a pamphlet with the results of their survey on bilingualism among American children educated abroad, while information compiled by Georgiale Granger, Düsseldorf, on obtaining advanced degrees and a report on financial aid for students by Lee Iacovoni, Rome, were published in the *FAWCO Forum*.

A joint letter by President Senigallia and Citizenship Committee Chairman Kathy Webster, Brussels, on the transmittal of citizenship to children was sent to the members of the Cabinet Task Force on Immigration. The Citizenship Committee also distributed a revised and expanded version of the citizenship information outline provided at the interim meeting.

The question of admitting new clubs with male members which had been discussed at the interim meeting was considered. It was agreed that member clubs are autonomous and FAWCO cannot dictate internal membership rules.

Two new clubs, AAC Santiago, Chile, the first South American club, and the Association of American Wives and Husbands of Europeans in Cannes joined FAWCO and two former members, Perth, Australia, and The Hague rejoined. FAWCO Secretary Marilyn Clarke, Rome, announced that membership now stood at 29 clubs representing 7,000 women in 16 countries.

Emphasizing the new direction in FAWCO policy, there were four meetings of the FAWCO Reps, not counting their meeting with the officers as the Board of Representatives. For the first time at a FAWCO Conference, there were two meetings of club presidents, one scheduled and a second by request.

Gloria Fischel, Amsterdam, announced that the FAWCO tour to Thailand was a great success, thanks to the hospitality of AWC Bangkok. Forty-five members, representing seventeen clubs, took part in the tour. A second FAWCO tour was planned to Kenya.

Conference workshops dealt with facing life transitions overseas; women and work; how to design and conduct a workshop; growing older overseas; introduction and orientation for new members and stress management.

Looking toward the future, a panel on "New Directions: Young Women and FAWCO," moderated by Virginia Roth, Rotterdam, explored future relations between member clubs and the Federation, as well as what members want from their clubs and the clubs want from FAWCO during its second half-century. Like all organizations, FAWCO should examine its aims and purposes at regular intervals.

A humorous panel called "Making Ends Meet — Italian style," moderated by Carol Bordoni, Genoa, offered outrageous and hilarious suggestions for fund-raising.

Five scholarships, totaling \$10,500 were awarded by the FAWCO Foundation.

The Conference resolved:

1. FAWCO shall give special attention to improving communication.
2. To help the adaptation of women transplanted from one culture to another.
3. To give special attention to member women working or attempting to work.
4. To support women in their efforts toward continuation of their education.
5. To continue concern for the education of overseas and dual-national children.
6. To reinforce awareness of all legislation, American and host-country, affecting those living abroad and to support appropriate U.S. legislation.

Nearly 500 people attended the gala dinner at the Conference where Jehan Sadat spoke on "Peace, Women and Children."

Muriel Bremner of Dublin was elected President and Düsseldorf was chosen as the site of the next Conference as a cooperative effort of AWC Düsseldorf and AWC Oslo.

## *Interim Meeting*

The 1984 interim meeting was held at the Berkeley Court Hotel in Dublin. 21 clubs took part, a record for an interim.

Following a panel on the advantages and disadvantages of large interim meetings, as compared to those restricted to officers, chairmen and Reps, the interim participants decided overwhelmingly in favor of the extended meetings. A straw vote on proposed single-slate elections instead of the customary double slate was defeated.

A voter registration workshop was held by Dean Ferrier and Kathy Webster of the Citizenship Committee to teach participants how to help voters apply for a federal absentee ballot. A strong message from the membership was sent to Washington endorsing pending anti-handgun legislation.

Four FAWCO Foundation awards were granted, totaling \$8,500.

## *XXVII Conference 1985 · Düsseldorf*

"The International Woman in a Changing World" was the theme of the joint Oslo–Düsseldorf Conference, the first conference sponsored by two clubs working together in well-planned cooperation. The agenda included a panel discussion on coping with technological, political and social change, and among the workshop topics were: the multiple roles of women; volunteerism; cultural adaptation; the use of computers and speaking in public.

President Bremner pointed out the three main priorities of the 1983–85 Board: 1. To foster strong working relationships between FAWCO headquarters, its administrative branches and the member clubs. 2. To respond to the interests and needs of Federation members. 3. To focus on FAWCO's role nationally and internationally.

In accomplishing the first objective, the administration extended the responsibilities of the vice-presidents and appointed a liaison officer for the counsellors. New emphasis was placed on the role of the club Representative, with increased communication between her and headquarters. Club presidents, as well, became an active unit in regional meetings as well as at the Conference.

Following the suggestion of the previous administration, an amendment was passed granting Associate member clubs the same voting

rights as Regular clubs and enabling American members of Associate clubs to be eligible for elective office in FAWCO.

In 1984 a *Social Security Benefits Overseas* pamphlet by Blue Breese, Brussels, was published and in 1985 a supplement on *Social Security Benefits for Self-Employed Women Overseas* was added.

A new brochure, designed and written by Jacqueline Isler of Zürich, Public Relations Chairman, was distributed to member clubs, to other American overseas organizations and within the U.S. government.

Three new committees were formed: Women and Home, Women and Work and University Liaison for Students.

With the approach of the 1984 U.S. national elections, Dean Ferrier and the Citizenship Committee launched the largest voter-registration campaign in the Federation's history. Every member club was provided instructions and guidance, in addition to the members who had attended the interim voter-registration workshop. Dean Ferrier announced that the campaign had been highly successful and that an increase in overseas voter registration had been noted.

FAWCO, in the person of President Bremner, met with two other non-partisan organizations, FIAC (Federation of International American Clubs) and AARO (Association of Americans Resident Overseas) to form a council (CARO) cooperating on behalf of overseas Americans, with the shared concerns identified as taxation, voter-registration, citizenship rights, Medicare and Social Security.

With the accomplishment of FAWCO's incorporation, negotiations were begun to obtain tax-exempt status.

Three new clubs joined FAWCO: AWC Luxembourg, AWC Surrey and the U.S. Women's Club of Fyn, Denmark. Also attending the Conference were guest observers from Bonn and Berne whose clubs joined FAWCO shortly afterward.

Resolutions and Recommendations adopted were:

1. That FAWCO give special attention to the International Woman in a changing world.
2. That FAWCO give special attention to improving communication and cooperation among the member clubs.
3. That FAWCO foster international relations, recommending that a disaster relief fund be established to be administered in emergency situations and that an international relations committee be established to work with organizations promoting goals similar to FAWCO's.

4. That FAWCO continue to encourage improved liaison between U.S. citizens abroad and the U.S. government.

5. To reinforce awareness of all legislation, American and host country, affecting those living abroad and to support appropriate U.S. legislation.

6. That FAWCO encourage the awareness of the problems of child pornography and the abuse of women and children.

7. That FAWCO continue its concern for the education of American and dual-national children residing overseas.

Virginia Roth, The Hague, was elected President and Madrid was chosen as the next Conference site.

### *Interim Meeting*

FAWCO's first meeting outside Europe was held at the Hotel Safir in Casablanca, Morocco. The warm invitation of AWC Casablanca and the prospect of a visit to a country unfamiliar to most members was irresistible and there was a large and enthusiastic attendance.

Social events included a reception at the Consul General's home, a tea at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Rabat, a gala dinner with the members of the hostess club wearing magnificent caftans and dinners with Moroccan specialties at members' homes. After the meeting, many participants took tours of Morocco arranged by AWC Casablanca.

### *XXVIII Conference 1987 · Madrid*

The theme for the Conference, held at the Hotel Meliá Castillo, was "Reaching Out." It was also the subject of a panel discussion led by Carol Bordoni, AIWC Genoa, who emphasized that "FAWCO is reaching out, not to grab but to give."

The panelists discussed reaching out to so-called silent club members, to newcomers, students and the host community. The procedure used by the military to assist new arrivals was also described.

President Roth reported that during this administration six Executive Board meetings were held in addition to those in the framework of the interim and Conference, the first time any Board has been able to spend so much time together as a team.

Reaching out became a reality when, for the first time, the FAWCO Disaster Relief Fund was used to help victims of the Mexico Earthquake. At this conference it was decided that the first vice-president should be responsible for disbursing the funds and the name should be FAWCO Relief Fund.

Membership Extension Chairman Elaine Senigallia, Rome, announced that six clubs had joined since the last Conference: Bonn, Berne, Korea, Languedoc Roussillon, Liberia and Vercelli. She brought up the question of whether FAWCO should limit its membership numerically or geographically, which had been discussed previously at the interim. The consensus was that there should be no limitations on FAWCO membership, and it was hoped that regional groups might eventually be formed for distant clubs, although at the time there was no region that could logically include even two of the non-European clubs.

In regard to distance and postage costs, a suggestion was made that a new system be set up for the interchange of club bulletins, which grows increasingly expensive. A survey by Treasurer Georgia Regnault estimated that postage costs to each club for these exchanges comes to between \$100 and \$200 per year. It was recommended that a minimum of four issues per year be sent out.

A report on "Family Safety and the Environment" — problems of pornography, prostitution and child molestation was presented by AWC Oslo with recommendations of how to protect children.

Helen Hoogerduyn, The Hague, announced that the FAWCO Resource Center file was completed, and distributed a booklet listing the documents. Copies of any of the material may be ordered at a nominal cost.

The workshops included "A Crisis of Values in Contemporary Culture" by Bishop Javier Martinez Fernandez, "Witnessing the Birth of Cultural Values in Elementary Schools," "Speak Up! How to Speak in Public" and "At the Crossroads."

Seven FAWCO Foundation awards, amounting to \$10,000 were granted.

It was resolved that FAWCO:

1. Implement strong bonds among member clubs with special emphasis on those outside Europe by establishing a sister-club program.
2. Foster the spirit of voluntarism within member clubs.

3. Encourage action on the part of member clubs against the threat of terrorism.

4. Address itself to the problems of students educated abroad who are attending universities in the United States.

5. Increase efforts to bring pressure to bear on U.S. legislators regarding the needs of the American community abroad.

Georgia Regnault, The Hague, was elected President. It was decided to have the new administration select the site of the next Conference.

### *Interim Meeting*

The Hotel Intercontinental in Luxembourg was the site of the 1988 interim meeting, the first FAWCO meeting to be held in Luxembourg.

Göteborg and Vienna were welcomed as new members and eight FAWCO Foundation awards were granted, totaling \$14,000.

### *XXIX Conference*

*1989 · Zürich*

"Changing Profiles" was the theme of the Conference, held at the Hilton International Hotel in Zürich/Glattbrugg. The theme illustrated the change in the make-up of the member clubs: more internationalism through associate members, difficulty in recruiting volunteers for club positions and an increasing number of working women arriving overseas.

Four more clubs were welcomed to FAWCO: AWOG Athens which rejoined, AWC Curaçao, AWC Salzburg and AWC Valencia (Venezuela), as well as the two welcomed at the interim. FAWCO now has 42 clubs, at least one on every continent.

President Regnault reported that during her term of office she had met with twelve member clubs. She attended a meeting of CARO (Council of Americans Resident Overseas) and also met with the FAWCO Foundation together with the Executive Board, and with Eleanor Hofmänner, President of the FAWCO Foundation. These meetings were designed to improve the lines of communication between the two elements of FAWCO.

It was announced that tax exemption status had been granted, after a lengthy application process.

First Vice-President Margaret de Maura, Madrid, described the Relief Fund donations to the Lumpa Women's Development Association in

Sierra Leone, channeled through WOE (Women Overseas for Equality), an international women's organization based in Brussels.

The revised and expanded *Handbook for the American Family Abroad*, edited by Joy Staudt, Luxembourg, was distributed. It was agreed that since it is a very useful guide for new arrivals, it should be sold by clubs as a fund-raising project.

*University Education in the United States: a College Planning Guide* was completed by the Education Committee with Petra Kladstrup, AWG Paris, as Chairman and with the sponsorship of AT & T. Six newsletters were sent out and letter-writing campaigns in an effort to stop the closing of important U.S. Consulates such as Antwerp and Genoa were initiated. The sister-club program was begun, under the chairmanship of Inez Scheller, Copenhagen, and twenty-two clubs were taking part.

The Citizenship Committee continued its efforts to reduce the prior residency requirements to two years in order for a U.S. citizen parent married to a non-citizen to be able to transmit citizenship to his/her child.

Denise Liebowitz, Brussels, reported on FAWCO's efforts to change State Department regulations not permitting U.S. citizens overseas to hold FSN positions.

A panel on "Changing Profiles" dealt with associate membership within clubs, voluntarism and FAWCO in the future. Workshops were held on "Communicating Across Generations," "A Sense of Belonging: How Clubs Can Help," "Living with Terrorism," "Eating for Health" and "Partners and Organizations."

Nine scholarships, amounting to \$18,000 were awarded by the FAWCO Foundation.

The Resolutions adopted recommended that FAWCO:

1. Increase awareness of worldwide issues by establishing an ad hoc committee on environment;
2. Develop further its global potential by setting up a regional structure to accommodate both present and future member clubs;
3. Modernize its communication system by providing Headquarters with paid assistance and by preparing a promotional video on FAWCO;
4. Address the concerns of individual members;
5. Continue its efforts on behalf of United States citizens abroad.

Kay Miller, Brussels, was elected president and Vienna was chosen as the site of the next Conference.

## *Interim Meeting*

The 1990 Interim meeting was held at the SAS Royal Hotel in Brussels.

Membership co-Chairmen Brooke Givot, Dublin, and Ellen Baur, Zürich, announced that the American Women's Club of Nairobi, Kenya, had joined and that AWC Taunus, a former FAWCO member, had rejoined.

Guidelines for affiliate membership, available to clubs outside Europe which otherwise qualify for Regular or Associate membership, were presented by Dorothy Childers, AWC Oslo. This is a one-time trial membership, limited to two years, with dues equivalent to a single individual membership. FAWCO information is supplied and members are welcomed as observers at conferences, but such membership does not include voting rights, the members of affiliate clubs may not hold elective office in FAWCO and their children may not apply for FAWCO Foundation scholarships.

Pan Hottinger, Madrid, presented the newly revised Administrative Guidelines including those for affiliate membership.

President Miller announced that FAWCO is part of a steering committee planning the July 1990 World Conference of U.S. Citizens, to be sponsored by: American Citizens Abroad, The Association of Americans Resident Overseas, Democrats Abroad, Republicans Abroad, The European Council of American Chambers of Commerce and FAWCO.

The Conference Sites Committee was made a standing committee instead of a temporary one meeting only at Conferences. An Environmental Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Maryrose Walsh, Madrid, in accordance with one of the resolutions of the 1989 Conference. Phyllis Michaux, AAWE Paris, suggested that FAWCO might form a committee to help elderly citizens too old or too poor to relocate in the U.S. Andrea Bowman-Moore, also AAWE Paris, offered to write up a proposal for such a committee to put before the Executive Board.

Arrangements have been made to promote FAWCO by a professionally produced video photographed by Brynn Bruijn, The Hague, to be ready in time for the Vienna Conference.

The 1991 Conference is to be held at the Hilton Hotel in Vienna. Its theme: "The Environment — What on Earth Can We Do?"

## FAWCO Member Clubs

Joined	Club Name	Resigned	Rejoined
1931	Antwerp AWC	1960	1978
	Berlin AWC	1954	
	London AWC		
	The Hague	1966	1981
	Paris AWG		1953
	Vienna AWA	1939	1987
	Zürich AWC		
1933	Belgrade ALC	1935	
1935	Denmark-Copenhagen AWCID		
	Hamburg AWC		1976
	Oslo AWC		1949
1936	Stockholm AWC	1954	
<i>War Years — FAWCO suspended activity from 1939 to 1948</i>			
1949	Brussels AWC		
1952	Basel AWC		1978
	Dhahran AWC	1970	
	Greece-Athens AHA	1958	
	Greece-Athens AWOG	1968	1989
	New Delhi AWC	1954	
1954	Abqaiq AWC	1970	
	Beirut AWC	1970	
	Bombay AWC	1962	
	Ras Tanura AWC	1960	
1956	Madrid AWC		
1958	Barcelona AWC	1970	
	Rome AWAR		
	Salonika AWC	1968	
	Seville AWC	1970	
1962	Luxembourg AWC	1972	1985
	Frankfurt AWC	1964	
	Zaragoza AWC	1964	
1966	Paris AAWE		
	Perth AWC	1976	1982
1970	Barbados AWC	1976	
	Cologne AWC		
	Düsseldorf AWC		

1971	Amsterdam AWC		
1972	Naples AWC		
1974	Teheran AWC		1976
	Thailand-Bangkok AWC		
1975	Genoa AIWC		
1976	Florence AIL		
	Rotterdam ANCOR		
	Taunus AWC	1978	1990
1977	Casablanca AWC		
1978	Milan BCM		
	Turin AWC		
1980	Dublin AWC		
	Kuwait AWL		
1982	Côte d'Azur AIC *		
	Chile AAC		1988
1983	Ticino ACT		
1984	Amman AWC		1985
1985	Fyn USWC		
	Surrey AWC		
1986	Bonn AWG		1988
	Berne AWC		
1987	Korea-Seoul AWC		
	Liberia AWL		1987
	Vercelli BIC		
	Languedoc-Roussillon AWG		
	Göteborg AWC		
1989	Curaçao AWC		
	Salzburg AWC		
	Valencia (Venezuela) AWC		1990
1990	Kenya-Nairobi AWA		
	Lugano AWC		
	Lisbon AWL		
1991	Aberdeen AAW		

\* AIC Côte d'Azur was originally called AWHE Cannes when it joined FAWCO in 1982.

## *FAWCO Presidents and Conference Sites*

<b>Term</b>	<b>Name · Club</b>	<b>Conference</b>
1932–34	<i>Caroline Curtis Brown</i> · London	Paris
1934–36	<i>Louise Connett</i> · Paris	Copenhagen
1936–37	<i>Mrs. James Mennell</i> · London	Zürich
1937–39	<i>Mary Volkmann</i> · Zürich	Hamburg
1939–49	FAWCO discontinued all activity	
1949–51	<i>Mary Briner</i> · Zürich	Stockholm
1951–53	<i>Inez Hoyer</i> · Oslo	Brussels
1953–55	<i>Marge Ganseman</i> · Brussels	Zürich
1955–57	<i>Patricia Moore</i> · Dhahran	Athens
1957–59	<i>Gertrude de Gallaix</i> · Paris	Paris
1959–61	<i>Ruth St. John</i> · The Hague	The Hague
1961–63	<i>Elizabeth Tiné</i> · Rome	Madrid
1963–65	<i>Marcia Hale</i> · Zürich	London
1965–67	<i>Mary Mag</i> · Rome	Rome
1967–69	<i>Mary Mag</i> · Rome	Brussels
1969–71	<i>Sonia Mincbere</i> · Paris	Paris
1971–73	<i>Elizabeth Sita</i> · Brussels	Zürich
1973–75	<i>Elizabeth Bagnay</i> · Madrid	Copenhagen
1975–77	<i>Edith Beyer</i> · Copenhagen	Rome
1977–79	<i>Shirley van Ooijen</i> · Amsterdam	London
1979–81	<i>Agnes Coppin</i> · Brussels	Paris
1981–83	<i>Elaine Senigallia</i> · Rome	Brussels
1983–85	<i>Muriel Bremner</i> · Dublin	Düsseldorf
1985–87	<i>Virginia Roth</i> · The Hague	Madrid
1987–89	<i>Georgia Regnault</i> · The Hague	Zürich
1989–91	<i>Kay Miller</i> · Brussels	Vienna